

## Nature Walk (K-2<sup>nd</sup>)

During this hour-long walk around the Garden, students have opportunities to examine California's amazing plants and animals and view plant-animal interactions first-hand. Our expert docents lead each tour using inquiry-based teaching methods to engage students with the natural world and inspire curiosity with their surroundings.

The Santa Barbara Botanic Garden's tours are aligned with Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Teachers have the option to have their tour revolve around one of two Cross Cutting Concepts. See below for tour options.

### **Structure & Function**

California is filled with diverse species of plants and animals. All organisms have internal and external parts that allow them to gather the resources they need for survival.

Key tour concepts:

1. Plants and animals, including humans, need food, water, and shelter to survive. They have structures and engage in certain behaviors to gather these resources.
2. Species gather their survival needs from their environment.
3. Habitats are never stagnant; they are dynamic environments that are constantly in flux due to changes in weather, organisms, and landscape. Environmental changes may cause some organisms to thrive while others die.
4. No two individuals are exactly the same; organisms inherit traits from their parents and often have characteristics that suit the environment they live in.
5. Humans depend on plants for food and resources and could not survive without them.

### **Energy & Matter**

Plants and animals rely on one another for survival and are interconnected. California native plants play a pivotal role in the survival of our native animal species.

Key tour concepts:

1. Plants and animals need to intake food – or energy – and nutrients to grow, survive, and reproduce. They engage in behaviors to obtain these resources.
2. Plants, animals, and microorganisms are intertwined and rely on one another for survival.
3. Native plants are a critical food source for our native insects which feed many of or other local species.
4. Some species form groups and social dynamics to help them survive.
5. Humans depend on plants for food and resources and could not survive without them.